



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Thirteen new alternative education programs to begin in 2009-10 school year

MADISON—Thirteen Wisconsin school districts will be starting new alternative education programs for the 2009-10 school year to serve students who may need a nontraditional school setting to be successful in their academic studies.

“Educators know, just as parents do, that every child is unique,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “While most students succeed in traditional classrooms, some young people need another alternative to flourish. These state grants help districts launch alternative education programs that support academic success and high school completion.”

The 13 new alternative education programs, serving students in 18 school districts, will join 66 continuing alternative education programs receiving state grants. The Department of Public Instruction reviewed 37 grant applications, requesting more than \$3 million in funding for this round of new grants. With \$1 million available, need far outpaces funding. The 2007-09 state budget allocated \$5 million each year for new and continuing grants.

“Even in tough economic times, we must balance our priorities to ensure that we invest in children and their future,” Burmaster noted. “We have seen some real success stories for students in alternative education programs.”

Each newly funded program is to start classes Sept. 1 and will be eligible for grants for five years. Projects receive 100 percent funding for the first three years of the grant, 60 percent funding in the fourth year, and 40 percent funding in the final year. School districts are expected to sustain the alternative education programs beyond the grant. Grant awards for new programs are contingent on the 2009-11 state budget process.

Alternative education programs are intended to serve at-risk students. Students identified as at-risk may have poor attendance, failing grades, social or emotional issues, discipline problems, drug or

(more)

alcohol issues, poor peer relations, significant credit deficiencies, or other barriers to their academic success and high school completion. Styles of alternative education programs may include those that pull students out of the traditional school setting to receive educational services, academy or business programs that provide workforce training or service-learning opportunities to re-engage students in their learning, or high school completion programs to help students acquire the credits and competencies needed for high school graduation.

Burmester recognized applicants for new grants for 2009-10 for embracing the spirit of alternative education programs. “Some grants are going to districts that already have successful alternative education programs but recognized that there is still a need to provide a different type of service to help students. Other districts receiving grants have worked with community partners throughout the grant-development process to ensure the alternative education program meets local needs. The dedication of grant recipients to serving students makes a real difference in our efforts to ensure a quality education for every child.”

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**NOTES:** A list of new, state-funded alternative education grants for the 2009-10 school year and continuing grants follows. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009\\_49.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_49.pdf).

# Alternative Education Grants

Districts or CESAs with an asterisk \* are acting as fiscal agents for the consortium listed below their name.

## New Grant Awards - 2009-10

Brillion	\$60,000
CESA 12*	\$95,000
Butternut, Glidden, Mellen, and Mercer	
Deerfield Community	\$65,000
Delavan-Darien	\$90,000
Elk Mound Area	\$85,000
Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau*	\$90,000
Melrose-Mindoro	
Madison Metropolitan	\$90,000
Medford Area	\$70,000
Minocqua J1*	\$60,000
Woodruff J1	
Montello	\$90,000
Ripon Area	\$90,000
Shawano	\$85,000
Wauwatosa	\$30,000

## Continuing Grants - 2008-09

Algoma  
Ashland  
Black River Falls  
CESA 11\*  
Grantsburg, Siren, and Webster  
Cumberland  
De Forest Area  
Fall River  
Franklin Public  
Germantown  
Hillsboro  
Howard-Suamico  
Little Chute Area  
Manitowoc  
Oak Creek-Franklin\*  
Cudahy  
Onalaska  
Oregon  
Rhineland  
Rib Lake  
Southern Door County  
Tomahawk  
Washington-Caldwell  
Whitehall\*  
Blair-Taylor and Independence  
Whitnall  
Wonewoc-Union Center

## Continuing Grants - 2007-08

Adams-Friendship Area  
Green Lake  
Hurley

Marinette  
Milwaukee Public  
Oshkosh Area  
Prescott  
Stoughton Area  
Wittenberg-Birnamwood

## Continuing Grants - 2006-07

Almond-Bancroft\*  
Tri-County Area  
Bangor  
Boscobel Area\*  
Wauzeka-Steuben  
D.C. Everest Area  
Elkhorn Area  
Manawa  
Marshfield  
Northland Pines  
Turtle Lake

## Continuing Grants - 2005-06

Bayfield  
Berlin Area  
Boyceville Community  
CESA 9\*  
Antigo, Elcho, Mosinee, and Phelps  
Fond du Lac  
Hartford UHS  
Janesville  
Kettle Moraine\*  
Palmyra-Eagle Area and Oconomowoc Area  
Kiel Area  
Menominee Indian  
Middleton-Cross Plains  
Neenah  
Nekoosa  
New London  
Park Falls  
Phillips\*  
Prentice and CESA 12  
Plymouth  
Racine  
Saint Francis  
Sheboygan Falls  
South Milwaukee  
Sun Prairie Area  
Tomah Area  
Wisconsin Rapids